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ESTIMATES OF THE PRESENT POPULATION OF LATVIA

The Latvian Press Attache in Washington, G. Shillers, has compiled all available data on the present number of people residing in Latvia. The following figures show population movements in Latvia since 1939:

Repatriated Germans	60,000
Latvian Jews, who were either killed during the German Occupation, or deported to Russia, not including those who have returned	90,000
Other national minorities in Latvia (Russians, Poles, etc.), deported to Germany	15,000
Total losses in numbers of minorities	165,000
Latvians killed or deported during first Soviet Occupation	34,000
Latvians who lost their lives during German Occupation	25,000
Latvian refugees and displaced persons	115,000
Latvians who were deported or killed, or who disappeared without trace, during the second Soviet Occupation	136,000
Total number of Latvians lost since the beginning of World War II	310,000
Total losses of Latvian population	475,000

During the so-called "elections" in occupied Latvia in December 1950, 1,504,650 voters were registered; this number includes practically all residents over 18 years of age, as everyone in Soviet-dominated countries is obliged to vote. Assuming that the number of people under 18 years of age is less than 35 percent of the number of adults, it may be concluded that the present number of people living in Latvia is slightly over 2 million. This is approximately equal to the number of people in Latvia before the war. In 1939,

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the population of Latvia was about 2 million, including 1,520,000 Latvians, or 76 percent. After deducting the losses which have occurred since the beginning of World War II, the conclusion can be reached that there may be still about 1,210,000 Latvians living on Latvian territory, or 60 percent of the total population. Therefore, the number of non-Latvians has increased from 24 percent to 40 percent, consisting mainly of Russians and Asiatics. In addition to private citizens of Russian nationality, these people include Soviet government officials and members of the political police, Soviet Army personnel, former Russian prisoners of war who remained in Latvia, and newly arrived settlers from the east.

Shillers points out that the figures cannot be regarded as completely accurate, as the Soviet occupation authorities have never published any reliable data on this subject. In estimating the losses of Latvian population, one should take into consideration certain minor population movements, as well as possible changes in birth rates caused by the war and by foreign domination. Several thousand Latvian displaced persons have been repatriated, and during the second Soviet Occupation some of the Latvian fugitives, or Latvians carried off by the Red Army, have returned; it is also possible that more of the Latvian deportees are still alive and will return at some later time.

In general, the above data agrees with that given by the Polish author, K. Szymozhevski, in his pamphlet The Russification of the Baltic States. He estimates the present population of Latvia at 2,100,000, including 1,222,000 Latvians, or 58 percent.

Data on the population of Latvia has been collected for some time by an experienced Latvian statistician living in Sweden. It is hoped that the results of his research can be published in the near future.

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